(c) whether Government have considered the proposal and discussed the formula with Pakistan, if so, at what level and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Media reports indicate that President Musharraf, at the concluding session of a conference organized by South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) on 20 May 2005 in Islamabad, had *inter alia* and said that the Kashmir issue should better be settled during the tenure of Dr. Manmohan Singh and himself. He also reportedly said that there was a solution to the Kashmir issue, which ought to be acceptable to India, Pakistan and the Kashmiris.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Singapore

1939. SHRIMATI SUKHBANS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Singapore Prime Minister a comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty were signed;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement and the treaty; and

(c) the main objectives thereof and the action taken and are being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is structured as an integrated package of several agreements covering trade in goods, trade in services, investment and economic cooperation in fields like education, since and technology, air services and intellectual property. The main objectives of singing the CECA include further cementing India's traditional ties with Singapore and expanding our trade, investment and economic cooperation with Singapore as well as the ASEAN in the context of our "look East" Policy.

The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) seeks to provide the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in criminal such as locating and identifying persons, serving documents, obtaining voluntary statements, taking of evidence, executing requests for search and seizure etc. The MLAT will help to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the prevention and suppression of crime through cooperation in investigation and prosecution of criminal matters.

The Government is actively in disseminating the contents of the CECA to the private sector and chambers of commerce so that they may take advantage of the opportunities for business opened up by the agreement. Our security agencies are in contact with their counterparts in Singapore to operationalize the provisions of the MLAT for mutual benefit.

Indian Children as Camel Jokeys in UAE

1940. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the seven countries sending under-aged children to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as Camel Jokeys, a practice that is banned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that to avert abuses, the UAE has made it compulsory for children from these countries to carry separate passports;

(c) whether UAE have repatriated some of our children sent there for this illegal trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, with action plan of Government to effectively control this inhuman practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In recent years no Indian child has been known to have gone to the UAE to be a camel jockey.

(b) Yes. The UAE Government had taken a decision in March 2005 that effective from September 2005 children including infants entering into UAE, except those of diplomats, should have separate passports.

(c) and (d) Yes. A case of an 11-year old child who accompanied his father to UAE for being used as a camel jockey by his sponsor, had come